

Union Township Environmental Commission  
Minutes for Tuesday October 12, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. all public notice requirements for open public meetings had been satisfied.

**Roll call;** Bill Harclerode, Chuck La Tournous, Chuck Neary, John Wingler, Michele McBride, Sandy Stiger, Steve Hurford.

Josh Boyle and Kathy Corcoran were absent.

**Approval of Minutes;** Minutes from the September 2010 meeting were moved by Michele McBride, seconded by Sandy Stiger and approved.

**Old Business;** *Trails at Finn Road Park*, after a brief discussion between Michele M, Bill H, and John W, it was determined that the Union Township road crew might be able to make signs. Michele M. said that Brian Kirpatrick was interested in marking out the trail. As to where the signs may be placed the Union township recreation committee was mentioned, they should have input and possibly install them. John Wingler was asked to get in touch with Scott Eichlin, (one of the committee members) for their input.

*Recycling;* Michele McBride supplied everyone with an updated copy of the recycling phone number information sheet; titled What Can I Recycle in Union Township. A motion was made to accept the information sheet, by John Wingler and seconded by Chuck Neary, and approved.

*Idling-* Bill Harclerode talked about receiving the no idling signs and distributing them to local businesses. He said all establishments were very receptive and he will write a thank you letter.

*Education* – no comments other than we will discuss later this year.

We discussed the Hunterdon County Planning and Design Award application briefly and wanted to pay special attention to Dr Furlong re: the old Douglas property barn. The extreme effort that has been given to the barns resurrection has prompted UTEC to include it in the update to the December application date.

We had discussed curb side leaf removal; John Wingler has not received any comments from Union Township at this point.

**Fall UTEC newsletter** – Chuck La Tournous has volunteered to put together the first E news letter for UTEC. One of the articles will be the letter/poster written by Michele McBride; titled Conservation Easements in Union Township, Hunterdon County.

The letter was moved by John Wingler, seconded by Chuck La Tournous and approved. There were additional items discussed to put in to the news letter one of them being the Recycle information sheet. Chuck L will put letter together for review.

We discussed the 2010 Milligan Farm and Trail Grant; UTEC has been awarded \$15,600.00 thanks to Michele McBride.

Bill Harclerode talked about truck idling at the Pilot Station; he had notified the DEP about idling trucks. They investigated, no report has been sent at this point. Bill H also reported the County is willing to help with enforcement.

**Correspondence** – nothing to discuss

**Chairs Report** – We had already talked about the Newsletter.

**Reports of Subcommittees** – *Open space*; Sandy Stiger reported that there were no changes from last month and that they knew of the importance of reviewing more properties. Chuck Neary proposed they should double up this in an effort do complete at least 7 properties. Sandy S. did agree.

*Property Stewardship* – Michele M. reported that there is new interest in the Hoffman House; Mike Helbing who is a park employee is interested. He was asked to submit a report to our RFP on the property. Michele M. also mentioned Mike and his group will be going out to the property to investigate the septic system this week. Michele M. reported about the south barns at the Hoffman Park as well; Mike Romanack a neighbor had been interested but has not responded to our RFP.

The county parks may want to utilize one of the south barns.

John W has been trying to have someone take down the barns with little cost, in exchange for recyclable materials.

Michele McBride reported that she has entertained some contractors to get estimates to remediate asbestos from the Milligan Farm House.

*Planning Board* – nothing to report at this time.

*Road noise* – Bill Harclerode will be measuring truck unmuffled engine braking noise. He has obtained a noise meter and will stand at different locations to measure noise decibels. He will report to the Road Noise Group and UTEC.

*Communication* – we have discussed the news letter for this topic.

**Sidney Brook Project** – Bill Harclerode explained that the draft Watershed Protection Plan is now available for public review. Michele McBride offered to download it and make copies for everyone to review. A public meeting on Sydney Brook is now planned at the UTEC meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**UTC Highlands Committee** - nothing to report.

**Sustainable NJ Certification** – Chuck L reported that the submissions for the report amounted to 185 points and that only 85 points were acceptable. We will need an additional 70 points to achieve completion. Chuck L explained that we made the September 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for initial submittal and that the final deadline for supplying updates was October 19<sup>th</sup>. The committee shared thoughts on different items to help with report; one of them could be the easement inspection reports, Chuck L said they could be worth 15 points. Chuck mentioned the importance of the certification; this could be another way to receive grants.

**Environmental Easement Database** - We discussed inspecting easements, or at least sending letters to home owners that the potential does exist for an inspection of easements.

**Hearing of Citizens** – none attending

**Adjournment** - a motion was made by John Wingler and seconded by Steve Hurford to adjourn.